WASHINGTON.

ANOTHER ATTEMPT TO REVIVE THE FRANK-ING PRIVILEGE.

MR. MERRIAM'S MOTION TO STRIKE OUT THE APPRO-PRIATION FOR OFFICIAL STAMPS DEFEATED-FIERCE ATTACK UPON THE PRESENT SYSTEM BY PRIVILEGE DECLARED TO HAVE BEEN SECURED BY FRAUDULENT STATEMENTS.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.] WASHINGTON, Dec. 16 .- The periodical attempt to revive the franking abuse was made in the House to-day during the consideration of the Legislative, Executive, and Judicial Appropriation bill. When se item of \$100,000 for the purchase of official postage stamps was reached Mr. Merriam moved to strike it out, his object being to lay the foundation for repealing the law abolishing the franking privilege. The short discussion which ensued related first to the cost of preparing the official stamps used by the departments. Mr. Randall said he understood that a contract had been made by the Post-Office Department, under which new dies and plates for the official stamps had been or were to be prepared at great expense, and that the printing of these stamps cost more per thousand than the printing of the ordinary stamps. The cost of preparing official stamps and of affixing them to mail matter in the Departments was stated at about \$30,000. Soon the debate drifted off to the subject of the franking privilege itself, and Mr. Kelley made a very fierce attack upon the present system of using official stamps. He said that it required the services of numerous clerks, who did nothing all day but to sit and slobber all over these official stamps and stick them upon packages bearing the lying statement that they contained nothing but printed matter. The official stamps, he also said. had been misused, as was well known, during the last political campaign, when the Controller of the Currency selected specches which favored the continuance of his office and the patronage attached to it and sent them to the banks of the country under the cover of official stemps. The repeal of the franking privilege, he said, was obtained by fraud. The petitions were printed at Government expense, and sent by the Posimister-General by the basketful to his 40,000 subordinates all over the country. The law was based on the faith of a fraudulent statement that its passage would save the Government \$5,000,000; the fact was that it had not saved \$1,000,000 or \$100,000. No one came very strongly to the support of the reform of two years ago, but the project to revive the franking abuse seemed weaker than it was last year, for, on a division, Mr. Merriam's mo tion was defeated by a small majority.

APPROPRIATIONS FOR SOLDIERS' HOMES. MR. WHEELER'S PLAN FOR ABOLISHING THE OLD SYSTEM OF SUPPORTING THESE INSTITUTIONS-DIRECT APPROPRIATIONS, BASED ON ESTIMATES,

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUSE.] WASHINGTON, Dec. 16 .- From the first establishment of the homes for disabled soldiers the money for their support has been derived from fines, stoppages of pay due to officers and soldiers in the army, money withheld from descriers, &c. During some years these sums have been considerably greater than has been needed for the support of these homes, and the surplus has been invested in bonds and held to the credit of those institutions. During other years the amount collected has not been sufficient for their needs, and the deficiency has been supplied by the sale of the bonds previously purchased. By this arrangement, neither Congress nor any one of the Executive Departments has had any direct control over the expenditures for these homes, The appropriations for them have been of an indirect kind, about which most members of each House have known very little. Beside this, to sepgrate the items applicable to the Soldiers' Home from the other accounts has required the services of about 60 clerks in enough to support one of these institutions. During the consideration of the Legislative, Executive, and Judicial Appropriation bill by the House to-day, Mr. Wheeler attacked the whole system, and by an amendment which he got permission to offer to this bill last Monday, provided for changing it entirely. In the first place be moved to reduce the number of clerks in the Second Auditor's office after the 1st of April next. Then by another amendment he directed that all the moneys by law set aside for the use of these Lomes shall be hereafter returned into the Treasury, and that a direct appropriation for the support of these asylums, amounting to \$500,000, shall be made, no part of which shall be available until all moneys heretefore accumulated shall have been expended. Hereafter, should the Senate agree to the amendments, the money for the support of these institutions will be drawn from the Treasury by requisitions, as other appropriations are drawn. Appropriations for them will be based on actual estimates, and all accounts will be settled at the Treasury.

A NEW CIVIL RIGHTS BILL.

THE HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE AGREES UPON A SUBSTITUTE FOR THE SENATE BILL-ABSTRACT OF CEMETERIES - PENALTIES AND MODE OF PRO-CEDURE-PROBABLE ACTION OF THE HOUSE UPON THE NEW MEASURE.

IBY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.] Washington, Dec. 16 .- Contrary to general expectation and belief, the House Judiciary Committee to-day agreed upon a Civil Rights bill, the pro-

visions of which are as follows: SECTION 1. That all persons within the jurisdiction of the United States shall be entitled to the full and equal enjoyment of the accommodations, advantages, facilities, and privileges of inns, public conveyances on land or water, theaters and other places of public amusement, and also of common schools and public institu tions of learning or benevolence, supported in whole or in part by general taxation, subject only to the condtions and dimitations established by law, and applicable alike to citizens of every race and color, regardless of any previous condition of servitude. Provided, That if any State or its authorities having control of common schools or other public institutions of learning shall establish and maintain separate schools or institutions, giving equal educational facilities in all respects to all classes entitled thereto, such schools shall be in compliance with the provisions of this section.

SEC. 2. That any person who shall violate the foregoing section by denying to any citizen, except for reasons by law applicable to citizens of every race and color, and regardless of any previous condition of servitude, the full enjoyment of any of the accommodations, advantages, facilities, or privileges, in said section enumerated, or by aiding or inciting such denial, shall for every such offense forfeit and pay the sum of \$500 to the person aggrieved thereby, to be recovered on an debt, with full costs, and shall also for every such offense be deemed guilty of a emeanor, and upon conviction thereof shall b imprisoned not less than 30 days for more than one year. Provided, That all persons may elect to sue for penalty aloresaid or to proceed under their rights at common law and by State statutes, and having so elected to proceed in the one mode or the other, their right to proceed in the other jurisdiction shall be barred; but this provise shall not apply to criminal proceedings, aither under this act or the Criminal law of any State. and provided further that a judgment for the penalty in favor of the party aggrieved or a judgment upon an indictment shall be a bar to either respectively.

SEC. 3. That the District and Circuit Courts of the United States shall have, exclusive of the Courts of the several States, cognizance of all cases and offenses against and violations of the provisions of this act, and actions for the penalty given by the preceding section may be prosecuted in the Territoria!, District, or Circuit | mendations in the President's message, will ask to

Courts of the United States wherever the defendant may be found, without regard to the other party, and the District-Attorney-, Marshals, and Deputy-Marshals of the U. S. Commissioners appointed by the Circuit and

Territorial Courts of the United States, with powers of arresting and imprisoning or bailing offenders against the laws of the United States, are hereby specially au thorized and required to institute proceedings against MR. KULLEY-THE REPEAL OF THE FRANKING every person who shall violate the provisions of this act, and cause him to be arrested and imprisoned, or bailed, as the case may be, for trial before such Court of the United States or Territorial Court, as by law has cognizance of the offense; ex-cept in respect of the right of action accruing to the person aggrieved. And such District-Attorneys shall cause such proceedings to be prosecuted to their termination as in other cases. Provided, That nothing contained in this section shall be cons rued to deny or defeat any right or civil action accruing to any person, whether by reason of this act or otherwise, and any District-Attorney who shall willfully fail to institute and prosecute the proceedings herein required shall, the person aggrieved thereby, to be recovered by an thereof, be deemed guilty of a misdemeaner, and be fixed not less than \$1.000 nor more than \$5,000. Provided further, that a judgment for, or penalty in favor of, the party aggrieved against any such District-Attorney or a judgment upon an indictment, shall be a bar, &c.

Sec. 4. That no citizen possessing all other qualifications which are or may be prescribed by law shall be disqualified for service as grand or petit juror in any of race, color, or previous condition of servitude; and any officer or other person charged with any duty in or fail to summon any citizen for the cause aforesaid shall, on conviction thereof, be deemed guilty of a mis-

Sec. 5. That all cases arising under the provisions of this act in the Courts of the United States, shall be reviewable by the Supreme Court of the United States without regard to the som in controversy, under the same provisions and regulations as are now provided by law for the review of other causes in said court.

Some of the members of the Committee, notably Mr. Frve, voted for this bill in Committee, although they are in favor of the old Sumner bill, pure and simple. When the subject comes into the House the Senate bill may, on motion, be substituted for this, and several members of the Committee would vote in favor of such substitution, and the House would thus be no nearer civil rights than it is now.

SLOW STEPS TOWARD SPECIE PAYMENT. AN ATTEMPT TO EXTRICATE THE REPUBLICAN PARTY

FROM ITS DILEMMA ON THE CURRENCY QUES-

cate their party from the dilemma in which it is placed between the hard and soft money men, and to give it something resembling a policy in the most important issue now before the country, the Republican leaders in Congress have about come to the conclusion that the only thing practicable is to pass a free banking bill with a foreign and domestic, to rivers and harbors, provision for the retirement of greenbacks as fast as to lighthouses, port charges, quarantine, emigranew notes are issued. This is a conclusion not tion, pilotage, tonnage, and the measurement regishighly satisfactory, as may well be imagined, to the radical resumptionists. It does not fix any date for specie payments, and can be called a hard money measure only because it provides for the gradual retirement of the greenbacks, which are the great obstacles in the way of reaching a gold basis. According to the belief of able inanciers, it would take 20 years to resume if this legislation should alone be relied upon for the purpose. The hope is that the process of educating the public mind up to a capacity for sound thinking on questions of National finance will go on with accelerating rapidity, and that after a year or two something more radical can be passed. What is sought now is not the wisest and best course to take, but the most politic one. These statesmen want to save their party first and help the country afterwards. If an attempt be made, as now looks probable, to push a free banking bill as a filed in the proper department or with the proper party measure, a considerable number of Repubthe Second Auditor's office, whose salaries licans will have to be read out of the party or have in the aggregate amounted to nearly allowed in it only on sufferance. All the greenback inflationists would oppose such a measure, and all the 3.65 bond men, whether inflationists or not, and besides the small faction who want a paper currency redeemable in gold, but want it furnished by the Government. It is claimed, however, that twothirds of the Republicans in the House can be united on such a bill.

> CURRENT TOPICS AT THE CAPITAL. RESULTS AND PROSPECTS OF THE HAYDEN EX-PLORING EXPEDITION.

Washington, Wednesday, Dec. 16, 1874. Prof. Hayden expects to take the field next year as early as the first of May to prosecute the topo graphical and geological survey of the Territories. By hard work as late as the first part of November he hopes that the expedition will be able to complete in all an area of 69 000 square miles in Colo rado and Utah, lying between longitude 101° 37 and 1090 30', and between latitude 460 45' and 400 30'. One result of this work will be an atlas of six large sheets, each sheet embracing an area of 11,500 miles square, which it is designed to issue in time for the Centennial. The region in which the surveying parties will operate next season is almost entirely unknown, and is left blank on most maps. It lies in South-Western Colorado and South-Eastern Utah, and is almost the only extensive area in the whole territory of the United States, outside of Alaska, which has not been to some extent explored, either by military expeditions, by parties of miners, or by regular surveying parties. Prof. Hayden has asked for an appropriation of \$100,000 for the expenses of next year's field tion of \$100,000 for the expenses of next year's field work. Last year Congress gave him \$75,000 for the short season of four months. As the appropriation was not made until just before the adjournment, the expedition was not able to begin operations until July. This year the short session insures that whatever sum is voted for continuing the survey will be available early in the Spring. The members of the surveying party are now engaged in this city preparing reports and maps.

ILLEGAL IMPORTATION OF CHINESE IN CALI-

FORNIA.

Representative Page of California was heard by the House Committee on Foreign Relations to-day in an argument to show the necessity of action by the Federal Government to prevent the importation of coolies under servile labor contracts and Chinese women for immoral purposes. Mr. Page proved the unanimity of public sentiment in California on this subject by reading from the platforms of both political parties, Gov. Booth's last message, resolutions of the Legislature, monster petitions, &c. The fact of the existence of the evils complained of was exhibited also by affidavits of missionaries resident in San Francisco, and the necessity for Federal action set forth by quoting a decision of the United States Circuit Court holding the State law passed to correct these evils to be in conflict with the Burlingame Treaty and the Constitution of the United States. Mr. Page also showed that the provision of the treaty requiring both nations to enact laws against the compulsory introduction of Chinese subjects into the United States had never been properly complied with by this country and not at all by China, and that no steps whatever have been taken China, and that no steps whalever have been taken by Congress to prevent the importation of Chinese women as slaves for prostitution. Congressman Luttrell of California was present and corroborated his colleague's statement. The members of the Committee expressed themselves fully impressed with the magnitude of the evils described, and gave the California representatives assurances that action on the subject should be promptly taken.

THE COMMITTEES ON SOUTHERN AFFAIRS TO BEGIN WORK AT ONCE. It is probable that one or two members of the select House Committee to inquire into affairs in

the Southern States, in accordance with the recom-

be excused on the ground that their time is already occupied. A sub-committee will, it is understood proceed to New-Orleans within a day or two, and be ready to report the results of their inquiries soon after the holiday recess. It is thought that Messrs. Wheeler, Foster, and Durham will be appointed as the sub-committee. The Committee to investigate the condition of affairs at Vicksburg met this even-ing and decided to go South at once.

DAMAGING EVIDENCE IN THE SUGG FORT CASE. Some commotion was produced around the Cap-itol to-day by papers being laid before the House in the case of a man named Sugg Fort of Robertson County, Tenn., who had preferred a claim for flour taken from him during the late civil war, and distributed among Union troops by order of the commanding officer. One of the papers says the claim was rejected by the Committee on War Claims, and that Col. Irwin, who was on duty at Nashville, knew all about the facts, and in a confidential letter to Gen. Eaton, former Commissary General of Subsistence, pronounced it to be a fraud, but in spite of the fact, the officers on duty there stated that the proofs of this are of the most overshadowing character. The cluim, amounting to \$231,723, was rushed through the Department within ten days. Commissary-General Shiras explains that the claim was first received by him on March 21, 1873, by reference from the Secretary of War with a letter to the Hon. Charles O'Neill, dated March 19, 1873. On the 29th of that mouth O'Neill was informed by Shiras, the predecessor of Gen. Eaton, that the claim could not be examined, being barred by the act of March, 1871. In June, 1874, Shiras was called on by Sugg Fort and the Hon, R. R. Batler of Tennessee, who urged him to take up the claim and act upon it. He was under the impression that the claim had not been reached by the War Claims Committee. Even withby the War Claims Committee. Even without any such language being used it would never
have occurred to him that such a claim, backed by
a member of Congress, could be presented at his
office when the member knew an adverse report had
been made on it by a committee of the House.
Shiras says the evidence that the flour was taken
was clear, and that the case submitted was clearly
under the law governing his department, as it was
not to be supposed but that the flour was distributed
by the commander of the port. On the certificate
of the Third Auditor and Second Controller Gen.
Shiras made a request for a requisition, which was
obtained and placed in the hands of Mr. Tanner for
the claimant. The subject was referred to the Committee on War Claims for investigation.

THE FLAN FOR A DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE.

THE PLAN FOR A DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE. The National Board of Trade has memorialized Congress to establish an Executive Department of the Government, to be called the Department of TION-POINTS OF A PROPOSED FREE BANKING Commerce, and to be charged with the supervision of the commercial, agricultural, manufacturing, and mining interests of the United States, in so far Washington, Dec. 16.-In their efforts to extri- as the same are confided to the National Government by the Constitution. Accompanying the memorial is a draft of a bill defining more specifically the duties of the proposed Department, which provides that it shall be charged with the execution of all the laws of the United States relating to trade and commerce, both try, enrollment and licensing of vessels, and generally of all matters included in the navigation laws. It further provides that the Department shall also be charged with the execution of the laws of the United States imposing duties on imports, and taxes and excises pertaining to internal revenue, and shaif collect, collate, and tabulate statistics relating to the agriculture, commerce, manufactures, and intering of the United States, and publish and circulate the same in such way as may be provided by law. ACTION OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WAR

CLAIMS. The House Committee on War Claims agreed to day upon the bill of Judge Lawrence to limit the time for the allowance of claims. It provided that after the 1st of January, 1876, no claim against the United States shall be presented to, audited, allowed, or paid by any department, or officers of the United States, unless the same shall have been officer within six years after the claimant had the legal capacity and right to so file such claim. The bill also provides that nothing therein United States may be referred to the Court of Claims by the Secretary of State, with the consent of the foreign Government presenting them, the Court to hear and determine them on the principles of international law or treaty between the two Gov ernments, either party having the right to appeal from the final decision of the Court.

ARGUMENTS BEFORE THE ALABAMA COMMIS-SIONERS.

In the Court of Commissioners for the Alabama claims to-day Gen. Creswell and Judge R. M. Corwine argued the case of the whale-ship Splendid, which was driven out of the Arctic Ocean by the Shenandoah, causing the breaking up of the voyage and the loss of the outfit, refit, and investment, amounting to many thousands of dollars. The United States demurred and denied the right of the owners of the Splendid to recover of the owners of the Spiennia to recovery under the law, claiming there could be no recovery except for property destroyed. To this Mr. Corwine replied that the act provided for two classes of claims; first, those which result in total loss, and second, those which result from partial loss; that wherever there was proof of actual loss, a recovery wherever there was proof of actual loss, a feest-fellowed as a matter of course. The argument was exhaustive and thorough. The Court heid the case under advisement. The same gentlemen will argue the interesting question of the right of a British subject to participate in this fund for a loss accruing on an American vessel, the subject being a resident of the United States when the loss occurred, and

WASHINGTON, Wednesday, Dec. 16, 1874. Senator Scott to-day introduced a bill for the pay ment to the Atlegheny Valley Railroad of the sum of \$7,232 75, being the balance due the road for carrying the mails in 1868, 1869, and 1870. Senator Edmunds, the the mails in 1858, 1869, and 1870. Senator Edmunds, the faithful watch dog of the Senate, scenting something in the shape of a subsidy, for which he has an aversion, remarked that it was a little singular that a railroad should be so backward in gitting what belonged to it. Senator Scott responded that there was some confusion in the accounts of the railroad, and read a letter from the Treasury Department setting forth that this sum was the balance of a long account. Therein, on Mr. Edmunds withdrew all objection, and the oil passed.

All claims for losses incurred by the capture or destruction of vessels or cargoes, or by the imprisonment of officers, sailors, or passengers, done by the Alabama, of omeers, saliers, or passengers, done by the Alabama, Shenandoah, and the Fiorida, or the Tarony, her tender, must be flied in due form before the Court of Commissioners at Washington before the 221 of January next or be forever barred. This does not include claims of insurance companies or claims for war premiums paid, but only for property losses and personal damages beyond the amount of insurance.

The cases of the Union Pacific Railroad Company agt-Twenty-two counties of Nebraska, involving the question whether the lands of that Company are taxable were argued to-day in the Supreme Court by Mr. Popple ton of Omaha for the Ralirond Company and by Messrs. Briggs and Cowan for the counties. About \$300,000 taxes are involved.

The California Congressional delegation united in a letter to the Tariff Bill Conference Committee, urgins them to recommend the immediate enactment of the provision fixing the duty on still-wine at 40 cents a gal-ion and \$1.50 per case. The Conference Committee hold their first meeting to morrow afternoon.

John D. Parmiy, Leroy K. Miner, Joel H. Wicker, and George W. Schoelly have been appointed Internal Rev enue storekeepers for the Vth District of Illinois. Henry H. Miller, Alonzo P. Johnson, George Ekins, Jesse Likens, and Benjamin Babcock have been ap-pointed gangers for the Vin Illinois District, and Luke P. Schuyler for the XVIIIth Pennsylvania District. Ex-Senator B. F. Rice to-day made a statement before

the House Arkansas Committee in favor of Brooks, whom he claimed to be the legal Governor of that State-Judge McClure will fo-morrow present the legal argu-ment on the same side. Ex-Gov. Baxter and Judge Lowe will argue that Gariand is the legal Governor. The House spent nearly the whole day on the Legisla-

tive, Executive, and Judicial Appropriation bill, and before adjournment had gone half turough with it. Mr. Cochrane of Chicago, it is said, will be appointed Supervising Architect of the Treasury Department,

FOREIGN NEWS.

CASE OF COUNT VON ARNIM. THE ACCUSED TO APPEAL IN THE EVENT OF AN AD VERSE VERDICT.

BERLIN, Wednesday, Dec. 16, 1874. If Count von Arnim should be found guilty he will appeal to the Kammergericht, the Brandenburg Court of Appeal.

It is already hinted that if he is convicted he will be pardoned at Prince Bismarck's request.

FRENCH POLITICS.

FAILURE OF EFFORTS TO UNITE THE RIGHT AND LEFT CENTERS OF THE ASSEMBLY.

Pants, Wednesday, Dec. 16, 1874. The Assembly Committee of Thirty met to-day and considered the question of placing the Constitutional bills on the order of the day. A proposal from the Left Center to give priority to M. Ventavon's bill was rejected. A motion was then made by the Right Center to place the bill for the organization of a Second Chamber first, and it was adopted. These proceedings show that all efforts to unite the two Centers have failed.

THE GERMAN REICHSTAG.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO UPHOLD ITS DIGNITY. The Reichstag to-day adopted a resolution declaring that, morder to uphold its dignity, an amendment of the Constitution is necessary to prevent the

COMMENTS IN CUBA ON PRESIDENT GRANT'S MESSAGE.

THE ATTITUDE OF THE UNITED STATES COMPARED WITH THAT OF GERMANY-WHY FOREIGN POWERS SHOULD INTERFERE TO STOP HOSTILI-TIES WITH THE INDIANS.

HAVANA, Dec. 16 .- The message of President Grant is generally discussed without excitement by the people, who do not attach much importance to the allusions to Spain and Cuba. The authorities give no sign of their opinion; but the journals have long editorials, which, while they are not considered to reflect the sentiments of the people in general, may suit the views of parties they respectively represent. The Voz de Cuba

President Grant's message amply compensates for the President Grant's message amply compensates for the slience observed on Spanish affairs by the German Emperor in his speech to the Refeastar. It is a remarkanic comendence that, while the United States aspire to supremacy in America, and Germany to supremacy in Europe, both are anxious to meddie with the internal affairs of Spain. Asiae from the desire of these nations to have peace in Spain, her affairs cannot interest them so much as ourselves, and we must view their efforts with suspecion. Russia imposed silence on Germany. We do not know who will make Grant slient. As for the insurfaction here, on the strength and duration of which the President lays stream, it is less powerful now than it was at the neg oning, and its endurance Lais to give it any significance. We doubt it any power will interfare in Spanish affairs, at least in Cuba; but should they attempt intervention, we are prepared to repei it.

The Diario de la Marma, in an article, moderate in tone, says there is nothing to the message to cause alarm not to be compared with that of last year. There has been some excitement in the gold market over reports about the message to which must be attributed the rise of eight per cent in the premium.

Referring to the military situation, the Diario declares that affairs have improved in the Eastern Department, while they show no enange since the Autumn of 1873 in the Central Department owing to the continuous rains and the many thousands of sick in the army. As for the rebels, only about a dozen of their original leaders remain; the others are dead or have left the island. Their army numbers from 5,000 to 6,000 men. the large majority of whom are negroes and Cainamen. The leaders hold out for the sake of the power they enjoy, regarding it as compensation for their troubles. The negroes refuse to surrender because they mistakenly believe that they will be reduced to their former condition of slavery if they give up.

The Diario concilles that foreign nations can, but

will not, interfere in the internal affiles of the island. 'If the duration of a war is a good reason for intervention, then the foreign powers ought to have interfered in the United States to stop the war with the Tadians, which has lasted much longer than ours and is not yet

TROUBLES IN MEXICO.

CHARGES AGAINST FOREIGNERS IN LA PAZ-COURSE OF THE CAPTAIN OF THE UNITED STATES STEAMED

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 16.-The steamship Newtown brings some information concerning the trouble between foreigners and natives at La Paz, When the United States steamer Saranac arrived at La Paz it was ascertained that Mr. H. S. Brooks, Superintendent of mine at Trunto, who had asked for the presence of a vessel of war on the ground that the troops only awaited an excuse to attack and sack his baclenda, had really been accused of selling damaged flour to his men. An examination was ordered by the judge of the district, and the damaged flour was found in the store, when the matter was referred to a higher court.

After the Saranae's arrival, a gang of men headed by Ramon Valdez robbed the people of San José of \$10,000, In consequence of a rumor that there was a project to and additional troops were placed at the disposal of Mr. Brooks. The next development was a disagreement between the Mexican soldiers and Brooks's forces. Hosrilaties were only prevented by the intervention of Capt. Queen of the Saranac, and an amicable understanding was finally reached. The Mexican authorities claimed that Mr. Brooks was trying to create a disturbance, and har retallated by making counter charges. The United States Consul, who had not been consulted, did not figure in the complications, and until the captain of the sarance submits in softical report, a dispassionate state-ment of the trouble cannot be expected.

MARINE DISASTERS.

WRECK OF OF THE SHIP G. J. TROOP-SEVERAL LIVES LOST.

Halifax, N. S., Dec. 16 .- On Monday afternoon the brig G. J. Troop, which sailed last week from Long Bay for St. Jago, coal laden, returned from sea and came to anchor near Cranberry Head, Sydney, supposed to have sprung a leak. About 2 a. m. on Tuesday the wind from the north-east began to blow very heavy, and it is thought that the captain shipped his cables and misstayed, and that the vessel struck on a shoal. The steamer Unicorn and four boats left Sydney Bar to assist the ship, but the sea was so high that they were unable to effect communication to assist the ship, but the sea was so high that they were unable to effect commun cation with the vessel. The sea was making a cleau sweep over every portion of her deek. Che boat, in which were Capt. Danner of the brig Iris of 8t. John, Capt. Chas. Hackett of Mathida, N. B.; Thos. Hackett of North Sidney, Beth Keenan, Wm. Cann, and Daniel Campbell went alongside, when the boat was swamped and most of its occupants drowned. The bodies of Capt. Donney and Wm. Cann were washed ashore. It is thought that the vessel will go to pieces to-night, as it is blowing a gale from the north-east.

THE SHIP HORATIO DESTROYED BY FIRE SHANGHAI, Wednesday, Dec. 16, 1874.

The American ship Horatio, Capt. Hardy, which arrived here on 2d of December from New-York, has been destroyed by fire.

FOREIGN NOTES.

TORONTO, Ont. Dec. 16 .- Elections to the House of Commons took place to-day in North Leeds South Norfolk, resulting in the return of Ferguson Wallace, both of the Opposition.

LONDON, Dec. 17-5:30 a. m.-A special dispatch from Santander to The Times, says the storm, which has been raging in the Bay of Biscav several days, continues unabated. Many boats and over 70 per sons are missing from that port. No foreign mails have

QUEBEC, Dec. 16 .- The Committee on Winter favigation of the St. Lawrence River met last evening. Mr. Bellingham in the chair. The following persons were xamined : Mr. Savage, for 50 years a resident of Cape Gaspé; Michael Guenard, a pilot of 26 years' experience; Thos. McConnell, a pilot of 26 years' experience; Chas Brown and Joseph Brown, pilots of 22 years' experience They all agree that with properly constructed vessels there would be no difficulty in navigating the St. Law-rence during the Winter mouths.

OTTAWA, Dec. 16 .- A joint deputation of the two boards of directors of the North Shore and the Northern Colonization Railway Companies arrived here this morning, and had an interview with the Premier.

The object was to insure the construction of the main trunk line from end to end of the Province of Quebec. Surveyor Hazlewood has presented his report of the survey of the route for the extension of the Canada Central Railway, from Railway, to the eastern terminas of the Canada Pacific Railway, 100 miles south of Lake Winnings.

RAILWAY INTERESTS.

PROCEEDINGS IN REFERENCE TO FORECLOSURES.

The stock and bondholders of the Columous, Chicago, and Indiana Central Rulroad met yesterday at No. 57 Broadway to discuss the fluancial existed between it and the Pennsylvania Company. A mixed committee of stock and bondholders was appointed to examine into the affairs of the Company and its connection with the Pennsylvania, with instruction to report as to the rights of the Columbus, Chicago, and Indiana Central Railroad in the premises. The Penn sylvania Railroad want the Columbus, Chicago, and Indiana Central Raitroad second mortgage bondholders to surrender their bonds and receive income bonds therefor, the object of this being to prevent a foreclosure of the road under the second mortgage. The second mortgage bondrolders on their part claim that the Pennsylvania road as lessee, is hable for the poyment of interest on these bonds. On behalf of the Pennsylvania Company it is claimed that the amended lease of 1870 abrogated any liability on their part.

The trustees of the first mortgage of the Montelair Railroad have adopted the following as their scheme of foreclosure:

The undersigned, having deposited with Marcus L. Ward and Abram S. Hewist, trustees of the first more rage of the Montchar Ranway Company — bouds secured by the sait mortgage, numbered as follows:

— And having taken the receipt of the said trustees therefor, breich gartes that the said trustees may prove the said bonds before the Mister in Chancery, in test therefor, bereby agrees that the said tractees may prove the said bonds before the Misser in Chamerry, in the proceedings for foreclosine now pending, and apply the said bonds in payment of the purchase in one of the said railway, its tranchises and applytheness, in case the said transees shall decide to purchase the same for the account of the bondholders, who shall place bonds in their hands for that purpose, which purchase they are hereby authorized to make; and the understand hereby agrees to pay such assessment, not exceeding 12 per cent of the par vaine of the understand of the purchase money and the costs of foresosure sale and reorganization. And the understand arrow agrees that the said trustees may hold and operate the property so purchased, for the account of the subscribing bondholders, and basis of proceeding to the control of the subscribing bondholders, and basis of procedures to the subscribing bondholders, but on such either terms as the said trustees shall deem best for the interest of the purchasers, subject, however, to the danaproval of such terms by a majority of the subscribing bondholers, at a meeting to be called for by the trustees to consider a meeting to be called for by the trastees to consider the same.

The representatives of the trustees say that between \$350,000 and \$400,000 in bonds have been thus deposited.

THE PROPOSED DOUBLE TRACK RAILWAY FROM NEW-YORK TO COUNCIL BLUFFS.

Washington, Dec. 16.-The House Committee on Railways and Canals have prepared a substitute for the oill providing for a double-track freight railway from New-York to Chicago, St. Lones, and Council Bluffs. It requires the Company to complete its road in | Charley Ross. There is a growing feeling among three years, and carry freight at five mills per ton per mile for 750 miles, and over and at a shade higher price for shorter distances; appoints a Government Commission to supervise expenditures in the construction and operation of the road, requiring it to reduce the rates whenever the net carpings exceed eight per cent per annum upon the actual outlay of capital, and to preven ombinations from perverting the objects of the bill. The Commission is required to east a vote at all stock-holders' meetings equal to the total shares represented. at \$3,000,000, to the Government, with all that it may hereafter acquire, and to pay all interof a sinking fund, a default of which works a foreclosure of the mortgage, the property reverting to the Government, which is to guarantee interest at five per cent on the bonds of the Company at the rate of \$20,00 per mile of the contemparest road to be issued to the Company as each 20 miles is completed. The value of the Company as each 20 miles is completed. The value of the Company as each 20 miles as completed. The value of the Company is property, consisting of the equivalent of 225 miles of single mass, grantee, and bringing ready for the from with rights of way, terminal, and other franches purchased, is stated at \$4,00,000, a sum equal to the interest upon the entire issue of bonds to be guaranteed for a single year, and will accumulate as the road is completed in double proportion of the value of the face of the bond to be issued, giving the Government, it is elained by the pro-clore of the road, perfect security a foreclosure of the mortgage, the property claimed by the projectors of the road, perfect securit from the start, which will berease in the same propo-tion as the construction progresses. It is furth-claimed that while giving cheap transportation, it we only require the loan of the Government credit, as it said the calculations of railroad experts confirm the

THE NEW FREIGHT RAILWAY IN CHARLESTON. CHARLESTON, Dec. 16 .- The new freight railway to-day began the actual transfer of through freight from the steamship piers to the depots of the various railroads connecting with the interior.

A SCHOONER WRECKED AND ALL HANDS LOSE. PROVIDENCE, Dec. 16 .- The schooner sunk Monday night in the west passage of Narragansett Bay is probably the Robert Pettis, from Virginia, of and for Providence, 75 tons, with oysters. It is known that she entered the bay Monday evening, and was doubtless capsized in the squall, and all hames I st-manuely: Capt. Sidney Ellis of Herwich, who heaves a write and six children; James R Ellis of Harwich, who heaves a family; Henry C. Hardner of West Harwich: Exra Smith, cook, who leaves a family, and George Andrews of Harwich Centre, a scannar, who leaves a family: Later -The schooner has been examined by a diver, who fully confirms it to be the Rubers Pettis. She heam 76 feet of water, with main-sail set, foresail furied, and hatches battened down. There is no news of the crew, who are supposed to be lost. Providence, 75 tons, with oysters. It is known that she

ALLEGED FRAUDS AT THE CHARLESTOWN NAVY-

Boston, Dec. 16 .- This afternoon's Herald says: "It has been rumored of late that frauds of cousiderable magnitude have been perpetrated at the Charlestown Navy-Yard, but the names of the persons implicated have been kept from the public. There has cen and still is a great deal of talk concerning the par-chase of lumber for the yard, and the official concerned in this transaction has been suspended and an investiga-tion has been made by a board of examination, but the result of this inquiry is kept a profound secret. An investigation is soon to be made at Washington into affairs at this station, and possibly the train will be reached."

ARKANSAS FINANCIAL AFFAIRS.

LITTLE ROCK, Dec. 16 .- A rumor has prevailed on the streets for several days that the State had on deposit at Stoddard's Bank at the time of its suspension a large sum of money. A committee was appointed by the Senate to investigate the matter, and to-day they made their report, by which it appears that the State had \$26,000 in currency and \$32,000 in State scrip in the and \$25,000 in currency and \$32,000 in State scrip in the bank at the time of suspension. This money was left at the bank by the County Collector, and the Deputy Treasurer accepted checks on the bank in their settlement. This afternoon counsel for the State obtained an order from the Chancery Court appointing a receiver to take charge of the bank and the property belonging to the firm.

TWO VESSELS CONDEMNED FOR VIOLATIONS OF LAW.

Boston, Dec. 16 .- In the United States Dis-Court, Judge Lowell gave a decision in the cases of the United States agt. The brig Mary Celeste and schooner Sylvia W. Swasey. The proceedings were brought un-der information filed by the District-Attorney, alleging that the vessels were of American build, and that du ing the late war they were transferred to British owners, but subsequently the vessels were sold to American ong the late war they were transferred to British owners, but subsequently the vessels were sold to American owners, and they took out new papers of registration, swearing therein that the vessels were of foreign register, and that they had been wrecked in American waters. The Court finds that the jlaw has been violated, and condemns the vessels.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16 .- The President and Cabinet Ministers returned the visit of King Kalakaua today. Gen. Sherman, who arrived here this morning, accompanied the party, and spent some time in conversation with the King. Card receptions and other official courtesies will be commenced to-morrow.

TELEGRAPHIC NOTES. BOSTON, Dec. 16.—The new Civil Service rules for a Boston Custom-noise were put into operation to-lay.

HARRISBURG, Dec. 16 .- Gov. Hartranft has signe HARRISBURG, Dec. 10.—Common Brightier in Westmoreland the warrant for the execution of Samuel Brightier in Westmoreland Country on the 20th of January meet, for the marker of Joseph Kerr.

NEW-HAVEN, Dec. 16.—Win. Ervan, 17 years of the bound driven from a attent in the suburb of waterburg. age, while being dreem from a ashoon in the saturb of waterbure, thome, mat might by the proprietor, Jacob Becare, snot at and kinled the latter, the ball extering its boad through the right eye.

PRICE FOUR CENTS.

CHARLEY ROSS NOT FOUND.

STRENUOUS EXERTIONS OF THE POLICE. FAILURE OF THE EXPEDITIONS-DETECTIVE SILLECT ON THE WRONG TRAIL-A HOUSE IN NEWARS SEARCHED.

The police yesterday were actively engaged in the search for the missing boy Charley Ross, but the two expeditions upon which Superintendent Walling depended for special information have returned without gaining any further clew as to the whereabouts of the child. Superintendent Walling has been indefatigable in his efforts to secure Charley Ross for his relatives. All day yesterday he received callers, many of whom had suggestions to make which they deemed to be of the greates! importance. One influential citizen suggested that it would be a wise thing to offer a reward and at the same time guarantee immunity from punishment to any one who would return the lost child Superintendent Walling said that if he were sure that the child was in New-York State he might, perhaps, pursue that course with advantage, but if the child should be found in New-Jersey and Connecticut, as a New-York official he could not guarantee immunity to any one from the justice of another

Superintendent Walling received a dispatch announcing that a person who was under surveillance had taken the cars and left the city. He at once ordered Detective Silleck to follow the person, and to telegraph to him as soon as he overtook the person. The Superintendent was disappointed yesterday to receive a dispatch saying, "Nothing here; will take first train for New-York." Superintendent Walling said last night that he could not reveal the place to which Silleck had gone, as it might interfere with his plans for the recovery of the child.

The Superintendent said that it was necessary for him to keep his movements in future as carefully concealed as possible, but he promised that the first intimation which he might receive of the recovery of the child be would at once communicate to the

Detective Fields went to Newark, N. J., vesterday in search of Charley Ross, upon information given to Inspector Walling on Tuesday night. He communicated with Chief of Police Rogers, and, after consultation, a warrant was procured for the purpose of searching a suspected house in the suburbs. The dwelling was searched but no clew whatever was found. Detective Fields reported to the Chief that the family visited was a very respectable one, and that there was no ground whatever for the suspicion that they were cognizant of the whereabouts of the boy.

The detectives were couring the country last night, following out the clews that Superintendent Walling has gained in regard to the whereabouts of the police that the boy is dead. One of the oldest detectives on the force said last night that he fels certain of one of two things, namely, that Charley Ross was either dead or was kept carefully concealed. by some very intimate friend of Moster's.

Up to 2 o'clock this morning nothing had been heard of the whereabouts of Charley Ross in the Police Central office. Detective Silicek who was sent away by Superintendent Walling to follow up what he deemed to be on important clue, was in the Police Central office last evening. and again departed on the same errand in another direction. Two other expeditions commanded by pected to return sometime this afternoon, It was reported at the Police Central Office at midnight that Superintendent Walling had received additional and important information at his house which will lead to startling discoveries to-day. The relatives and friends of Charley Ross, with the Philadelphia detectives, were still in this city, hooing for some positive information as to the late of the child. The patrolmen throughout the city made diligent inquiries in every section of their heats and are to report any strange section of their beats and are to report any strange children they may come across whose presence can-not be sarisfactorily accounted for. It has been positively stared by the police that Charley Ross is the third child that Moster has abducted, all of whom have been taken to secure a reward.

THE EXPEDITION UP THE SOUND. WHERE MOSIER USED TO GET SUPPLIES RAN-

Detective Doyle and other officers had been rdered on Tuesday to proceed to an island in Leng Island Sound near Westport, Conn., where it had been reported to Superintendent Walling that an old man and woman lived who excluded everybody from their land. The officers toiled through the Sound to Westport, and there secured a search warrant and a Deputy Sheriff to serve it. Then they went over to the island, where they found the old man and woman for whom they were searching. These people live alone upon this island in a little cabin, surrounded by outbuildings in which they keep a few domestic animals and a number of fowls. Upon their arrival upon this island, Detective Dayle recognized the premises as the same as those upon which they had landed last Summer when searching for Moster and Donglass. At that time they called there for some provisions. They were harshly treated by the old man and womae, who are the sole inhabitants of the island, but obtained potatoes and bacon and went away. About 3 o'clock yesterday marning the officers landed upon this island again. They saw no light in the cabin, and for some time they were unable to arouse anybody. At length they succeeded in obtaining a response to their protracted knecking, and an old man opened the door a little way, while an old woman held a flaring dip-candle, which she had just lighted, a short distance which she had just reguled, a begind him. In a tremulous voice he asked what the introders wanted at that time of the night. The officers said that they had come for Charley Ross, and, placing his shoulder at the door. Doyle forced it open. Followed by the others he entered the cabin, and while the old people stood looking on with a dazed expression, the officers scarched every nort of the premises. To their discordance where the products the olders scarched every nort of the premises. To their discordance where the products the products of the premises. searched every part of the premies. To their dis-gust they found nothing. The omeans I a ned that Mosier and his pertuer had often called at this island for food, but the old man and woman said that they never permitted any one to stry there for any length of time. They acknowledged that they had sold provisions and whisky to boatmen, but said that they had never harbored any one. The island is one of the most desolate in the Saund, and the old persons dwelling there hear a bad reputa-tion. The officers returned to Superintendent tion. The officers returned to Superintendent Walling, who was greatly disappointed, as were also the officers and relatives from Philadelphia.

THE PLOT TO STEAL THE CHILD.

MOSTER AND DOUGLASS WHISPERING TOGETHER AT GREENPOINT BEFORE THE ABDUCTION-SIGNIFI-CANT HINTS DROPPED-A SALOON-KEEPER'S STORY.

Soon after the bodies of Douglass and Mosier had been viewed at the Morgue by the Coroner's jury, a liquor-dealer from Greenpoint stepped into the room. This man's name is Shepherd, and he keeps a saloon at No. 169 Franklin-st., Greenpoint. Shepherd examined the bodies closely for a few moments. "It's too bad," said he, pointing to the body of Douglass, "it's too bad that you are there." Then shaking his fist at Mosier's remains he muttered, "You are the cause of this. If it had not been for you, Douglass would not be here to-day." Shepherd was a burly, rough, yet honest-looking fellow, and he seemed deeply affeeted. Upon being questioned by a TRIBUNE reporter he said: "I knew Douglass and Mosier, but not by the names they are now known by Douglass lodged at my place in Greenpoint for several months. I knew him by the name of Clark. When he was at my house he worked on the Greenpoint and Myrtle-ave, line of cars. He seemed to be a very steady fellow, and conducted himself very quietly at my place. About the 1st or 2d of March, Moster came into the saloon and in-quired for Clark. The two met. and an-